

—120. *COLYMBUS ARCTICUS*. Black-throated Diver.

Fairly numerous; eggs were taken at Golchika only, though several pairs were seen on the lakes in the forest.

—121. *COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*. Red-throated Diver.

Common; preferring the small lakes for nesting.

We were constantly on the look-out for *Colymbus adamsi*, but did not see one. The natives seemed to know it, and told us it nested at the lakes, far away on the tundra.

IX.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XXXVIII. & XXXIX.

No. XXXVIII. (October 31st, 1896.)

THE thirty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of October, 1896.

*Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

*Members present*:—BOYD ALEXANDER, E. BIDWELL, J. L. BONHOTE, PHILIP CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, DR. F. D. DREWITT, E. A. S. ELLIOT, JOHN GERRARD, W. GRAHAM, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, G. H. CATON HAIGH, J. E. HARTING, OSWIN A. J. LEE, MAJOR A. P. LOYD, P. H. MUNN, R. NESHAM, C. E. PEARSON, H. J. PEARSON, F. PENROSE, T. DIGBY PIGOTT, C.B., HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), W. B. TEGETMEIER, MAJOR HORACE TERRY, N. F. TICEHURST, H. M. WALLIS, JOHNSON WILKINSON, LIONEL P. WILLIAMS, C. A. WRIGHT.

*Visitors*: H. TABOR BROOKS, DR. CROSSE, J. EARDLEY HILL, R. H. HUNTER, DR. TRAQUAIR.

The Treasurer announced that the Members of the Club were now 117 in number.

Mr. FRANK PENROSE was elected on the Committee, in place of Mr. P. Crowley, who retired by rotation. Mr. P. L. SCLATER was unanimously elected Chairman, and Messrs. P.

CROWLEY and W. GRAHAM were appointed Vice-Chairmen for the present Session.

The Chairman gave his annual Address to the Club, and made the following remarks :—

“ On commencing the proceedings of the Fifth Session of the British Ornithologists' Club, I cannot refrain from offering a few preliminary remarks on the flourishing condition of our Association. It has increased in number regularly year by year, and now embraces, with very few exceptions, the most active and energetic Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. I think that the founders of the Club may be well congratulated upon the undoubted success which, in the face of some sinister prophecies, has attended their efforts.

“ Passing on to other topics, I must first call your attention to the very serious losses that have occurred in the ranks of Ornithology since I had the honour of addressing you a year ago. The deaths of Lord Lilford and Mr. Seebohm have made vacancies which it will be hard indeed to fill up. I need not on the present occasion attempt to speak of the events of their lives, which have been treated of elsewhere; but I will remind you that both of them worked up to almost the last moments of their existence, and left behind them publications unfinished at the times of their decease. Lord Lilford's excellent 'Coloured Illustrations of the Birds of the British Islands' was nearly at its termination when the death of the author took place. We are pleased to know that some well-qualified friends have arranged to do the little that is necessary to render these beautiful volumes complete. As regards Mr. Seebohm's work on British Birds' Eggs, which was announced to be in preparation some time ago, we are glad to learn that Dr. Bowdler Sharpe has completed it for publication, and this, we are told, has not been a difficult task. The same, however, is not likely to be the case with Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes,' which the energetic Editor of our 'Bulletin' is likewise prepared to see through the press. Although the plates of this work, as we under-

stand, have mostly been already drawn and coloured under Seebohm's superintendence, I fear that in this case, as regards the letterpress, the Editor will have a long and by no means easy task to perform.

“Passing on to other ornithological publications which have been issued since the commencement of our last Session, I may point out that three additional volumes of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, which, when I spoke to you last year, I alluded to as being nearly ready, have all been published, and that volume xxvi. (to contain the Herons, Pelicans, Grebes, Divers, and Penguins) is now only required to complete this most important work. Captain Shelley's first volume of his work on African ornithology has also been published. Other important ornithological works lately brought out are the new edition of Mr. Ridgway's ‘Manual of North-American Birds’ and Dr. Mivart's beautifully illustrated ‘Monograph of the Lories.’

“As regards ornithological books in course of preparation or in contemplation (besides the posthumous works of which I have already spoken), I am pleased to say that the Index to the 4th, 5th, and 6th series of ‘The Ibis’ (1877-94) is making good progress, the first portion of it being already in type. Mr. Beddard has been hard at work on his ‘Anatomy of Birds’ all the year, and hopes to have it ready for the press in 1897. Mr. Joseph Whitaker is projecting a volume on the Birds of Tunis, in which he will put together the results recently achieved by himself and other collectors in that interesting district of North Africa.

“Perhaps the most remarkable event in ornithology that has lately been divulged to us is the characterization of the gigantic bird of the *Diprotodon*-beds of South Australia, which, as announced in the last number of ‘The Ibis,’ Dr. Stirling has named *Genyornis newtoni*. We are not yet in possession of a full account of this extinct monster, but have only been told that it is, in fact, a gigantic Emu, just as the *Diprotodon* of the same epoch is an exaggerated Kangaroo. As regards extinct birds, we may also rejoice that (as already announced in ‘The Ibis’) the Trustees of the

British Museum have acquired for this country the whole collection of remains of the so-called Order Stereornithes got together by Dr. Ameghino, of Buenos Aires. The study of these fossils, which has been assigned to Mr. Andrews, of the Geological Department of the British Museum, will, we have no doubt, throw a flood of light upon the real relations of this series of remains of a former bird-world, which has been recently revealed to us.

“Now, and lately, as is usual, a large number of British ornithologists are scattered over the earth’s surface, some temporarily, others as quasi-permanent residents. As shown by Mr. Ogilvie Grant in the last number of ‘The Ibis,’ Mr. Whitehead is continuing his most successful investigations in the highlands of the Philippine group, while Mr. A. Everett has been making similar researches in the mountains of Celebes, and Messrs. Rickett and De La Touche are always busy in China. Mr. Alexander Whyte (Sir Harry Johnston’s naturalist at Zomba) has lately carried out a most successful foray into the Nyika plateau of Northern Nyasaland, and we may shortly expect his collections in this country, while Mr. Lort Phillips is planning another winter-expedition into the northern parts of tropical Africa. As regards the New World, our young friend Mr. Graham Kerr (the former naturalist of the abortive Pilcomayo Expedition) has departed on a scientific mission into Western Paraguay, where there is an ample field for discovery. Mr. Fitzgerald’s new expedition to ascend Aconcagua and other giants of the Andes will be accompanied by Mr. Philip Gosse, who is said to be a competent collector. In the Australian region Mr. North at Sydney, Mr. Le Souëf at Melbourne, and Mr. De Vis in Queensland are ever at work on ornithology; while in New Zealand Sir Walter Buller promises us a new and complete manual of the birds of that island-group, bringing up the subject to the present date, and in the Sandwich Islands Mr. Perkins is still hard at work among the mountains. Thus it may be truly said of the British ornithologist, as of the British engineer, that his proud motto is ‘Ubique.’”

MR. OSBERT SALVIN communicated the following description of an apparently new species of American Partridge :—

†*DENDRORTYX HYPOSPIDIUS*, sp. n.

*D. leucophryi* similis, sed corpore subtus minime rufo guttato, pectoris et hypochondriarum plumis saturate griseis, striarhachidali nigra; fronte, superciliis et guttore sordide albidis; scapularibus et secundariis extus fere unicoloribus indistincte vermiculatis, maculis majoribus cervinis nullis; pedibus, ut videtur, obscurioribus, tarsi postice fere nigricantibus. Long. tota circa 12·0 poll., alæ 5·9, caudæ 5·0, tarsi 2·0, dig. med. cum ungue 2·05.

*Hab.* Azalias de Cartago, Costa Rica, 8th May, 1896 (C. F. Underwood).

Mr. Underwood has recently sent to us a single male specimen of this *Dendrortyx*, which differs in several points from *D. leucophrys* of Guatemala, its nearest ally. The species has been before noticed in Costa Rica, and appears in Mr. Boucard's list (P. Z. S. 1878, p. 42) as *D. leucophrys*. His specimen was also obtained in the volcano of Cartago, in the month of May.

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent the following description of a new Parrot from New Guinea :—

*PSITTACELLA PICTA*, sp. n.

♂. Top of the head chestnut-rufous; sides of the head greyish brown; an orange-yellow collar on the hind neck; sides of neck with a chestnut-rufous spot. Above green; lower rump and upper tail-coverts deep red; back and rump with black cross-bars; wings blackish, outer webs of quills green, the primaries with yellow edges towards the tip; throat brown, with a bluish wash; under tail-coverts red; rest of underparts green; upper breast dark blue, a blue tinge along the middle of the abdomen; under wing-coverts green, bend of wing bluish. Bill bluish, tip whitish. Wing 112 mm., tail 70, culmen 15.

♀. Throat and sides of the head greenish blue, no orange-yellow collar; cross-bars above more numerous; breast yellow.

lowish, with broad black cross-bands; abdomen with indistinct yellowish and dusky cross-bars. Otherwise like the male.

*Hab.* Mount Victoria, in the Owen Stanley Range, British New Guinea, at elevations of from 5000 to 7000 feet.

Types in the Tring Museum.

Professor MENZBIER forwarded the description of an apparently new species of Tawny Owl from Transcaucasia, with the following remarks:—

“In the summer of 1894 a friend of mine, Mr. Willkousky, in Batum, received a nestling of an Owl in down, captured in the marsh near that town. Some time after, the Owl assumed its adult dress, which was remarkable for its very dark brown general colour, with some ferruginous marks on the scapulars; and now, after new moulting, the bird is as dark as before, and even darker, always with a white bill. At first I thought that this specimen was but a merely individual melanism of *Syrnium aluco*; but in the spring of this year I received from Mr. Willkousky a skin of another specimen coloured in the same manner as the first, which had been obtained in a vineyard in the district of Shushov. After a careful examination of this specimen, I am now convinced that this Owl belongs to a very good new species, differing from *Syrnium aluco* both in its general colour and character of markings, as may be seen from the following diagnosis. I have named the species after Mr. Willkousky:—

“*SYRNIUM WILLKOUSKII*, sp. n.

“*S.* magnitudine *S. aluconis*, remigibus, ut in *S. alucone*, denticulatis. Obscure fuscum, facie pedibusque fusco-atris; supra indistincte nigro striatum, subtus magis ferruginescens, striis dilutis longitudinalibus fusco-atris. Remigibus rectricibusque rufescenti-fuscis, haud transfasciatis. Collari albo vel cinereo nullo loco præsentis. Rostro albido, iridibus fusco-atris. Long. 12'' 3''', caud. 7'' 5'''.

“*Hab.* Transcaucasia.”

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited skins of two new species of East-African birds, for which he proposed the following names:—



## SERINUS FAGANI, sp. n.

*S. similis S. angolensi*, sed mento gulaque purè albis, minimè nigro maculatis: torque gutturali e maculis magnis nigris formata distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·2 poll., alæ 2·55, caudæ 1·35, tarsi 9·5.

## CISTICOLA HINDII, sp. n.

*C. similis C. terrestri*, et caudâ eodem modo picturatâ, sed uropygio dorso concolori, minimè rufescente, distinguenda. Long. tot. 3·8 poll., culm. 0·4, alæ 2·1, caudæ 1·2, tarsi 0·85.

These new species were discovered at Machakos Station, in British East Africa, by Dr. S. L. Hinde. The other species represented in his collection were *Lamprocolius sycobius*, *Spreo superbus*, *Buphaga erythrorhyncha*, *Vidua principalis*, *Penthetria laticauda*, *P. eques*, *Drepanoptectes jacksoni*, *Pyromelana flammiceps*, *P. xanthomelæna*, *Lagonosticta brunneiceps*, *Hyphantornis spekii*, *Mirafra africana*, *Pyrrhulauda leucoparæa*, *Anthus rufulus*, *Macronyx croceus*, *Nectarinia kili-mensis*, *Cinnyris gutturalis*, *Lanius collurio*, *L. caudatus*, *L. humeralis*, *Phylloscopus trochilus*, *Cisticola erythrogenys*, *C. lugubris*, *Centropus superciliosus*, *Coracias garrula*, *Irisor erythrorhynchus*, *Elanus cæruleus*, *Limnocorax niger*, and *Oxyechus tricollaris*.

“The station of Machakos,” writes Dr. Hinde, “is situated on the edge of a grass plain which stretches for some miles coastwards. The plain is dotted with thorn-trees about 100 to 300 yards apart, and these small thorns are the only trees in the neighbourhood. The nearest forest is at Kikuyu, about 45 miles away. On the east side of the station is a valley about 500 yards wide through which runs a stream about 2 feet wide and 3 inches deep. The whole valley and patches of the plain are cultivated. On the east side of the stream the mountains rise abruptly, some points being over 2000 feet above the station, which is itself 5300 feet above the sea-level.”

Dr. SHARPE exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Ruskin Butterfield, the specimen of the Wall-Creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*)

described by Mr. Butterfield, in the 'Zoologist' for August 1896, as having been shot near Winchelsea.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT exhibited a fine series of skins of birds collected by Mr. John Whitehead in the Philippines, among them being examples of the two new species of Thrushes described in the current number of 'The Ibis,' and of the new *Turnix whiteheadi*, described by him in the second volume of his 'Handbook to the Game-Birds.'

Mr. G. H. CATON HAIGH exhibited a specimen of *Phylloscopus viridanus* shot by himself on the 5th of September at North Cotes, Lincolnshire. This Asiatic species was new to Great Britain, but had occurred three times on Heligoland.

Mr. L. BONHOTE exhibited a series of skins of the Common Linnet (*Fringilla cannabina*), showing the gradual change of colour on the breast-feathers of the male. He also described the nesting of the Corn-Crake (*Crex pratensis*) in captivity, and remarked that both captive and wild birds of this species moulted the whole of their quills directly after the young were hatched, and that both male and female were then incapable of flight.

Mr. Bonhote also exhibited a remarkably large skin of a Nightingale, shot in August in Cambridgeshire, which measured 7 inches in length and had a wing of 4.5 inches.

Mr. SCLATER read some extracts from letters received from Mr. J. Graham Kerr (B.O.U.), who had recently left England for Western Paraguay. They contained many notes on the birds observed during his voyage up the La Plata and Paraguay Rivers to Asuncion, where he had arrived on Sept. 13th. As regards the alleged occurrence of a second species of Cormorant on these rivers (Aplin, Ibis, 1891, p. 152), he was inclined to refer all the numerous specimens he had hitherto seen to *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*. On Sept. 12th he observed immense numbers of alligators along the banks, and several flocks of *Chauna cristata*, amongst one of which were some



individuals of *Cathartes atratus*. Near the mouth of the Paraguay was passed an enormous flock of the Maguari Stork (*Euxenura maguari*), with 4 or 5 Jabirus (*Mycteria americana*) amongst them. Other birds noted on the Paraguay were *Ceryle amazona*, *C. torquata*, *C. americana*, *Pyrocephalus rubineus*, *Furnarius rufus*, *Aramides ypecaha*, *Ardea cocoi*, *A. egretta*, *Cairina moschata*, and *Dendrocycna fulva*. Mr. Kerr was expecting to leave Asuncion for Concepcion, on the Upper Paraguay, on the 23rd September.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a pair of the Great Nuthatch (*Sitta magna*) from the Shan States, Burmah, collected by Major Rippon. The species was only previously known from a female example described by Major R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay in 1876.

Mr. W. B. TEGETMEIER exhibited some snail-shells (*Helix nemoralis*), forty-eight of which had been taken from the crop of a Pheasant.

Mr. OSWIN A. J. LEE exhibited a series of photographs of nests and eggs of British birds, as well as coloured photographs of eggs of some Raptores and Alcidae. These pictures were very much admired by the members present, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Lee for their exhibition.

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No. XXXIX. (December 5th, 1896.)

THE thirty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of November, 1896.

*Chairman* : P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

*Members present* :—O. V. APLIN, E. BIDWELL, F. C. CRAWFORD, P. CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, Dr. F. D. DREWITT, Col. PAGET W. L'ESTRANGE, R.A., A. H. MACPHERSON, Rev. H. A. MACPHERSON, J. G. MILLAIS, R. NESHAM, C. E. PEARSON, H. J. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, E. LORT PHILLIPS, H. LEYBORNE POPHAM,

R. H. READ, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, N. F. TICEHURST, A. B. R. TREVOR-BATTYE, H. M. WALLIS, WATKIN WATKINS, JOHNSON WILKINSON, LIONEL A. WILLIAMS, JOHN YOUNG.

*Visitors*: J. HOWARD DAVIES, DR. C. I. FORSYTH MAJOR, H. STEVENS, S. YARDLEY, C.M.G., J. J. BALDWIN YOUNG.

Mr. ROBERT READ exhibited and made remarks on some interesting nests of birds from Sweden, a nest of the Honey-Buzzard being among the specimens exhibited.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE stated that Professor Smit, the Director of the Stockholm Museum, had kindly forwarded to England, for his inspection, the type specimen of *Plangus neogæus* of Sundevall (*Oefv. K. Vet.-Akad. Forh. Stockholm, 1874, p. 28*). Since the species had been described and made the type of a distinct genus, no one had attempted to determine its identity, and it was interesting to find that *Plangus neogæus* was in reality the young of *Harpyhaliaëtus coronatus*.

Dr. Sharpe also exhibited a specimen of the Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla lugubris*), shot near Wandsworth on the 18th of October by Mr. Henry Grant. The changes through which the bird was passing were clearly, according to Dr. Sharpe, those of pattern in the feather rather than those of moult.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a chick of the Black-winged Peafowl (*Pavo nigripennis*) which had been bred in Mr. Blaauw's garden in Holland, and remarked that he still strongly maintained the validity of this species, which in the 22nd volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' had been classed only as a "well-marked variety," and was confident that its native habitat would be ultimately discovered. Not only was the male of this species different from that of *P. cristatus*, but the female was quite different, and so was the young, as shown by the specimen now exhibited.

Mr. Sclater read the following notes from Mr. Blaauw on this subject:—

“ In answer to your questions about the breeding of *Pavo nigripennis*, I can state that I have bred these birds for the last six years, having had between 10 and 20 young birds every year. These birds have *never* shown any signs of variation.

“ The chicks when they leave the egg are always of a silky yellowish-white colour all over. The flight-feathers, when they begin to appear, are always yellowish white at the end and brownish at the base, especially so on the inner web. The tail-feathers also are dark at the base, with whitish tips. The birds then gradually get the well-known light plumage of the *Pavo nigripennis* hen. If the young bird is a male, the plumage soon becomes mottled with dark feathers, and in autumn many greenish and bluish feathers are visible. In the second autumn the male comes into full colour, except the long train, which comes a year later.

“ As I four times lost my old breeding-cock, I had to replace it as many times and got birds from different places, and the offspring from these cocks never showed any variation either as chicks or as adult birds. If *Pavo nigripennis* is not a species it certainly is a wonderfully constant variety.

“ I may add that the bill and legs of chicks are of a pale flesh-colour.”

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the “ Act to amend the Wild Birds' Protection Act, 1896,” passed during the last Session of Parliament, whereby the Secretary of State was enabled, on application, for special reasons, to make an order prohibiting the taking or killing of particular kinds of wild birds during the whole year. Mr. Sclater suggested that advantage should be taken of this power to render penal throughout the year the destruction of such birds as the Hoopoe and the Golden Oriole, which might be reasonably expected to breed in some of the southern counties of England if they were not molested.

Mr. SCLATER gave a short account of his 48-hours' visit to Spitsbergen in the Orient s.s. ‘Garonne’ in August last,

and mentioned, as some of the more interesting birds he had noticed there, the Snow-Bunting, the Purple Sandpiper, the Ivory Gull, and Buffon's Skua. An example of the Spitsbergen Ptarmigan (*Lagopus hemileucurus*) had been shot by one of the party while they were in Ice Fiord, but the bird was stated to be rare there.

The Rev. H. A. MACPHERSON exhibited two interesting hybrids of *Lagopus scoticus* and *Tetrao tetrix*.

Colonel L'ESTRANGE drew attention to some of the points relating to the law as it affected bird-catching.

#### X.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, Nos. 19 & 20, July and October, 1896.

In No. 19 Mr. Lionel W. Hinxman reports on "the Migration and Occurrences of Birds in Scotland during 1895," and expresses his regret at the falling off in the number of schedules sent in for that year—only 20 having been received as compared with 36 for 1894. From Barra three species not hitherto identified in the Outer Hebrides are now recorded. Mr. William Evans, as well as Mr. T. E. Buckley, add to our previous knowledge of the breeding-range of the Tufted Duck (*Fuligula cristata*) in Scotland, and both these authorities likewise show that the Pochard (*F. ferina*) has nested in Fife, and even in Hoy, Orkney; while the Rev. H. A. Macpherson discourses of *Harelda glacialis* in the Solway Firth. In No. 20 Mr. R. Godfrey has an interesting paper on the birds observed last summer in Shetland, wherein he shows that the Great Skua is extending its breeding-area, and the same may be said of the Fulmar. Mr. W. Evans has identified the Roseate Tern and an *adult* example of Sabine's Gull in the Firth of Forth; a Roller was obtained in Orkney in June; and Mr. T. E. Buckley reports a Greenland Falcon from Skye on the 26th of May.